

Testimony of Carolyn Havrda
Before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education

*In Support of the State Department of Education budget
with funding for Magnet Schools and other Sheff v. O'Neill integration programs*

Submitted by
Carolyn Havrda, Montessori Magnet at Moylan Principal
March 3, 2015

Chairwoman Bye, Chairwoman Walker and distinguished members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify this evening. I am here because I want to urge your continued support for **ALL magnet schools**, Open Choice and other aspects of the Sheff v. O'Neill regional, two-way voluntary integration system.

I am a traditional, literacy and Montessori trained educator that has been passionately devoted to Hartford children and families since 1988 in the name of social reform. I am proudly principal of *Montessori Magnet* currently located at Moylan and McDonough campuses.

I would like to take a moment to read you a quote:

"This is education, understood as a help to life; an education from birth, which feeds a peaceful revolution and unites all in a common aim, attracting them as to a single centre. Mothers, fathers, politicians: all must combine in their respect and help for this delicate work of formation, which the little child carries on in the depth of a profound psychological mystery, under the tutelage of an inner guide. This is the bright new hope for mankind."

(The Absorbent Mind, p. 15) This was written by Maria Montessori over 100 years ago about Montessori education.

We have 205 students today, growing to 255 students next year and eventually 381 students that will fully compliment 14 multiage classrooms across equivalent grades PK3 to 6.

Montessori Magnet is a flourishing community of engaged children and families interested in promoting equity and access to free public Montessori. We are thrilled to grow and offer this education to more children, but need a new building that adequately allows for our methodology to be implemented to its fullest. The new Sheff agreement includes state funding to find a new space for us and construct a building that suits Montessori education. I urge you to approve the new agreement because it will make a difference in the lives of our current and future children and families.

I offer my consultation and welcome all parties to come to *Montessori Magnet* to witness public Montessori Education. Your support continues our shared vision of social equity.

In the name of all of OUR children and families - we thank you for your continued support!

Carolyn Havrda
1 Imlay Street Hartford, CT 06105
860-716-1436 Carolyn.Havrda@hartfordschools.org